

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4510

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

S E C R E T GENEVA 1540

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJ: TURKISH OPIUM BAN

REF: GENEVA 1459

1. DITTERT REPORTS HE MADE PRESENTATION TO AMBASSADOR KIRCA LATE AFTERNOON MARCH 6 ALONG FOLLOWING LINES. INCB HAS ALWAYS HAD CLOSE AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONS WITH TURKISH AUTHORITIES AND WITH AMBASSADOR KIRCA PERSONALLY. BOARD RECOGNIZED DIFFICULTIES CONFRONTING NEW TURKISH GOVERNMENT AND HAD THEREFORE BEEN RESTRAINED IN ITS COMMENTS WITH REFERENCE OPIUM BAN DURING DISCUSSIONS RECENTLY CONCLUDED SESSION OF CND. HOWEVER THIS SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS MEANING BOARD UNCONCERNED ABOUT BAN'S MAINTENANCE. QUITE THE CONTRARY, BOARD IS PREOCCUPIED WITH THIS MATTER. BAN HAD CLEARLY HAD SIGNIFICANT IMPACT IN REDUCING ILLICIT TRAFFIC. FURTHERMORE, BOARD'S CONVERSATIONS WITH SOME OF

TURKEY'S NEIGHBORS DURING CND POINTED UP PROBABILITY THAT ANY MODIFICATION IN TURKISH POLICY ON BAN COULD SERIOUSLY IMPERIL NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORTS MADE OVER LAST FEW YEARS NOT ONLY IN MIDDLE EAST BUT BEYOND. (AT THIS POINT KIRCA ASKED WHETHER DITTERT HAD IN MIND SUCH COUNTRIES AS PAKISTAN, AFGHANISTAN AND THAILAND AND THEIR AMBITIOUS PRODUCE OPIUM FOR EXPORT AND DITTERT RESPONDED IN AFFIRMATIVE.) DITTERT WENT ON TO TELL KIRCA THAT INCB PRESIDENT SIR HARRY GREENFIELD HAD ASKED HIM TO CONVEY BOARD'S CONCERNS TO KIRCA AND TO STATE THAT IF

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IT COULD BE USFUL SIR HARRY IS READY GO TO ANKARA TO PRESENT

BOARD'S VIEWS DIRECTLY TO TURKISH PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER.

2. AMBASSADOR KIRCA RESPONDED TO EFFECT THAT SIR HARRY IS RECOGNIZED WORLDWIDE FOR HIS EXPERT KNOWLEDGE OF NARCOTICS PROBLEM AND FOR HIS WISDOM AND OBJECTIVITY AND THAT BOARD HAS INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION FOR INDEPENDENCE AND IMPARTIALITY. THEREFORE HE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT GREENFIELD/DITTERT BE RECEIVED ANKARA BY PRIME MINISTER, FOREIGN MINISTER AND MINSTER OF AGRICULTURE. KIRCA STRESSED THAT VISIT, WHILE OFFICIAL, MUST BE KEPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. HE SPECIFIED THAT NO MENTION OF VISIT SHOULD BE MADE TO DIV OF NARCOTIC DRUGS OR ELSE WHERE WITHIN UN SECRETARIAT AND WARNED AGAINST ANY BREACH IN CONFIDENTIALITY. KIRCA/DITTERT AGREED THAT, SUBJECT APPROVAL TURKISH GOVERNMENT, GREENFIELD/DITTERT SHOULD VISIT ANKARA MARCH 25-27. (GREENFIELD IS UNABLE FOR PERSONAL REASONS MAKE VISIT EARLIER.)

3. COMMENT: DITTERT IS VERY CONCERNED THAT HIS TALK WITH KIRCA AND INCB'S PROSPECTIVE VISIT TO ANKARA SHOULD NOT (REPEAT NOT) BECOME KNOWN SINCE THIS COULD SERIOUSLY IMPAIR AND PROBABLY NULLIFY BOARD'S EFFORTS HELP PERSUADE TURKISH GOVERNMENT NOT TO REVOKE OR MODIFY OPIUM BAN. ACCORDINGLY, WE REQUEST THAT REPORTS OF OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH DITTERT AND INCB'S PROSPECTIVE VISIT ANKARA BE CLOSELY HELD WITHIN USG CIRCLES. BELIEVE WE SHOULD TAKE SATISFACTION THAT BOARD IS RESPONDING QUICKLY AND WITHIN SPIRIT OF AMENDING PROTOCOL TO ASSIST IN TURKISH SITUATION.

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